

THREE COUNT[©]

Volume 1, Number 46

September 1, 1992

Briefly

- **Erik Watts** made his professional debut August 27 on a World Championship Wrestling show in McMinnville, Tenn. Watts, the son of WCW vice president **Bill Watts**, defeated **Buddy Lee Parker**. I am told Watts is green, but he does have a frame (6-6, 230) that allows him to add weight.

- Legendary wrestling announcer **Lance Russell** is retiring at the end of 1992. Russell, the long-time voice of the Memphis-based United States Wrestling Association, is the head of World Championship Wrestling's 900-number phone service. Russell and **Gordon Solie** were also a commentating team on Clash of Champions and pay-per-view shows for the 900-number.

- **Andre the Giant** will make an appearance (Continued on Page 2)



Roddy Piper played the bagpipes as part of a special surprise appearance at Summer Slam. Photo: Dr. Mike Lano.

was more stalling than action, with **Hawk** being worked over by the heels for about seven minutes until **Animal** got the hot tag and eventual pin. One sequence had Hawk reacting entirely too quickly after IRS had him in a sleeper hold for a few minutes. DiBiase wore all white, which, judging by his performance in this match, may bear some sort of significance to either future turn or jump to World Championship Wrestling. **Grade: *1/2.**

Following this match was a Flair interview (****), in which his facial expressions were simply fantastic, and a Virgil interview (-*).

2) **Nailz** d. Virgil with his chokehold/sleeper submission. Surprisingly, this was much better than expected. There was some decent brawling, and the pacing was fast. Virgil was destroyed after the match, but **The Big Boss Man** did not make the save. **Grade: **.**

A Sensational Sherri interview came next (**1/2), in which she talked about how **Rick Martel** and **Shawn Michaels** had discussed the stipulations for their Slam match (i.e. no hitting in the face). **Alex Marvez** gives the interview an extra ** because Sherri had a nose ring.

3) Michaels and Martel fought to a double countout in about 8:30.

(Continued on Page 5)

Macho Man Keeps WWF Title at Slam

By John Patton
Three Count Staff

The Ultimate Warrior defeated Randy Savage via countout August 29 in the main event of the World Wrestling Federation's Summer Slam pay-per-view show emanating from London's Wembley Stadium.

The inconclusive finish was done because former WWF champion **Ric Flair** is slated to regain the title September 1 at a WWF television taping in Hershey, Penn. This move comes on the heels of the reported re-instatement of **Pat Patterson** as booker of the WWF.

A rundown of the show, which was telecast via pay-per-view in the U.S. on August 31:

1) The Legion of Doom defeated Money Inc. (Ted DiBiase-Irwin R. Shyster) when **Animal** pinned DiBiase with a power slam after DiBiase inadvertently ran into IRS. The match was disappointing, as there

Inside...

Briefly continued -- Pg 2

Sheet spotlight -- Pg 2

Reader results -- Pg 3

Rey's lucha -- Pg 4

Slam continued -- Pg 5, 9

Patton, In General -- Pg 6-8

Briefly

(Continued from Page 1)

at WCW's Sept. 2 Clash of the Champions. **Bruno Sammartino**, who was hired as WCW's adviser for Northeastern promotions, will also be there. I know, Sammartino knows nothing about promoting in the Northeast. The show celebrates 20 years of wrestling on TBS. **Ted Turner** will make a taped cameo.

- International Wrestling Federation referee **Rick Garcia** was highlighted in a Memphis newspaper in a section called "Elvis people." Garcia, an Elvis impersonator, said he really misses The King when he looks at his grave. Thanks to **William Burnett** for the clip.

- Here is the rundown of the September 5 WCW Saturday Night show, which will likely also feature Clash of Champions highlights: **Marcus Alexander Bagwell-Johnny B. Badd-Tom Zenk** d. **Scotty Flamingo-Greg Valentine-Dick Slater** when Zenk pinned Flamingo (**1/2; the finishing sequence was particularly excellent), **The Barbarian** won a squash (Look for the "Hey Rhubarb: Bite Me!" sign during Barbarian's entrance, which didn't excite **Doug "First Amendment" Dillinger**) and **Arn Anderson-Bobby Eaton** (accompanied by **Michael Hayes**) d. **Rick and Scott Steiner** to determine the No. 1 contenders for the WCW tag-team titles. This was a *3/4-star match with a few nice moves thrown in. The best was Scott bodyslamming Eaton from the second rope, with Rick catching him and turning it into a power slam. Scott juiced hardway from the side of his head late in the match. Anderson pinned Rick (!) after Eaton Alabama Jammed him behind the referee's back.

- Lineup for the Sept. 26 WCW show in Jacksonville has **Ron Simmons-Nikita Koloff** vs. **Jake Roberts-Cactus Jack**; **Ricky Steamboat** vs. **The Steiners** vs. **Anderson-Eaton**; **Brad Armstrong** (who is expected to wrestle at the Clash) vs. **Brian Pillman**; **Dustin Rhodes**

vs. Slater; Zenk vs. Valentine and Erik Watts - Bagwell - **V a n Hammer** vs. **Super Invader-Vinnie Vegas-Diamond Dallas Page**. Lineup for

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Sheet Spotlight

Here's a look at the top stories of some of the other wrestling newsletters, with subscription information. Note to newsletter editors sending sample copies: I will provide one complimentary issue and analysis of your newsletter for each sent to me. If complimentary copies are available, please indicate. Also, please make sure subscription information and prices are clearly stated.

- **Sheldon Goldberg's Mat Marketplace** (Issue 10): A well-written and complete obituary on the late **Buddy Rogers**, including photos and clippings of old matches; Previews of wrestling videos and the industry's most complete classified section. Bi-monthly; \$2.50 an issue. P.O. Box 2371, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

- **Andrew Goldberger's Around the Ring** (August 1992): Interesting article by independent manager **Daryl Van Horn** on outlaw shows, newsletters and old Mid-Atlantic wrestling; A mini-autobiography of **Mike Shaw** (a.k.a. **Norman the Lunatic**, **Muchan Singh**) with some choice comments about former WCW vice president **Jim Herd**; "Superstar" **Billy Graham** responds to comments made in a prior issue by **Tony Rumble**; Rumble delivers the first of his "many reports on the scumbags of the business," featuring independent promoter **Tommy Dee**. Monthly; \$1.50 an issue. P.O. Box 6, Port Jefferson Station, NY, 11776.

- **Steve Sims' Lucha Libre Weekly** (August 12): News that **Aaron Grundy** (**Mike Shaw**) and **Black Magic** (**Norman Smiley**) were turning heel in the EMLL promotion; A comprehensive report from UWA television shows thanks to **Roy Lucier**; Word that **Hussien el Gran Shieck** and **Super Astro** have jumped to AAA, as well as a complete AAA rundown; Reports and news from lucha shows in Southern California. A mini-biography on **El Panterita del Ring**. Weekly; \$1 an issue. 1427 West Dickens Ave., Chicago IL 60614-3003.

- **Dave Meltzer's Wrestling Observer Newsletter** (Sept. 1): The Dean returns from Japan with a comprehensive look at **Pat Patterson's** return to the WWF, the **Vince McMahon-Jerry Jarrett** deal and every hot wrestling topic today; Also features interesting excerpts of a recent **Muscle Mag International** article on McMahon's WWF; Recent *Observer* survey results also are enclosed; A double-issue is planned for next week with a detailed look at Dave's and **John Muse's** trip to Japan. Weekly; \$1.50 an issue. P.O. Box 1228, Campbell, CA 95009-1228.

Sept. 24 in Tallahassee has **Hammer** vs. **Invader**, **Bagwell** vs. **Valentine**, **Zenk** vs. **Slater**, **Armstrong** vs. **Pillman**, **Rhodes-Steamboat** vs. **Anderson-Eaton**, **Windham** vs. **Barbarian**, **Koloff** vs. **Roberts** and **Simmons** vs. **Cactus**. **John Patton** and I will be attending both shows, so if anyone wants to hook 'em up, give me a call.

McDaniel, Rich Work on S.C. Indies

The Danny Parris Express through the Carolinas continues with this latest round of reports from various independent groups in the area:

- **Grizzly Boone** promoted a Big Time Wrestling card in Braselton, Ga., on August 7 before 150 fans. Results saw **Dr. X (Mike Somaini)** d. **Kevin Kirby** (*1/2), **Buddy Shane** d. **Jimmy Valentine** (*), **The Exterminator (Jon Michaels)** d. **Rick Hammer** (1/2*; **Billy Black**, who was at ringside for Hammer, and Hammer brawled with **The Hitman (Hunter Thompson)** and Exterminator after the match), **Boone** d. **Ugandan Head Hunter** (1/2*), **Brodie Chase-Mike Hart** d. **The Georgia Express** (*1/2), **Hitman** d. **Chief Jay Eagle** to win the National Championship Wrestling title in a lumberjack match (although it is possible the switch won't be acknowledged in other towns) ... BTW is promoting two shows Sept. 24 in Braselton as part of a fall festival.

- **Nick O'Neil's** Southern Wrestling Alliance held a television taping August 22 in Great Falls, SC, before 212 fans. This group has struck a deal with the cable television company in Rock Hill, SC, and will soon be airing on WCBI (Channel 2). The show will also air in Great Falls, SC, at 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Results from the taping saw **Jake Steele** d. **Johnny del Rio** (1/2*) in a dark match, **Wahoo McDaniel** d. **Valentine** (*), **Cyborg** d. **Johnny Kidd** (*), **Grim Reaper (Johnny B. Good** -- Remember, it's not cool to look like **Hulk Hogan** anymore) d. **Southern Boy**, **The Scorpion** (O'Neil) d. **The Texan** (*; O'Neil is trying to do a Sting-like gimmick, but wrestles better as himself), **Tommy Rich** d. **Chris Hamnick** (**; Rich gave Hamnick lots of spots), **Jay Eagle-Rikki Nelson** fought to a double DDQ in 11:10 (**3/4; both continued to brawl after the bell rang), **The Ringlords (Rick Slagle-Speedy Gonzalez)** d. **War Hawks I-II** (*1/2), **Sergeant Sledge (Dave Melton with a Big Boss Man gimmick)** d. **Mustafa** (*), **Colt Steel** d. **Kidd** (*), **Scorpion** d. **Matt Burns** (*; during a Scorpion interview, he began brawling with Cyborg), **Rock Patterson** d. **Red Demon** (*), **Batman (Rick O'Neil)** d. **American Soldier (Scotty Piper)** in 21 seconds; **McDaniel** d. **Rich** in the main event (*1/2). The show was pretty good. Manager **Daryl Van Horn** was in attendance scouting talent.

- The final Continental Wrestling Federation card for a little while was promoted by **Rusty Lane** on August 8, drawing only 50 people to Monroe, NC. **Ron Rossi**, who claimed all future dates for this group were cancelled, was fired by Lane. Both Rossi and Lane claim they will promote shows, with Lane using **Colt Steel**, **L.A. Stephens**, **David Isley** and **Gene Ligon**. Anyway,

results from August 8 saw **Wildman Darrell** d. **The Rebel (DUD)**, **Harlem Knights I-II** d. **Kevin Kirby-Nasty Cat** (*1/2), **Rossi** d. **Iceman Kenny B.** (-***), **Shane** d. **Valentine** (*; Shane's manager **Snow Roseboro** got tripped by some fan at ringside who, surprisingly, was not ejected. Pretty funny stuff), **Ivan Koloff** d. **The Hitman** (*1/2).

- **Greg Price** quit as promoter of South Atlantic Pro Wrestling, but is slated to begin a new group this fall that will assume most of the SAPW's television markets. Price claims he will use old SAPW talent and has \$4.5 million in financial backing ... **Jay Eagle** and **Mighty Atar** are the current American Championship Wrestling tag-team champions, having defeated **Ivan** and **Vladimir Koloff** for the titles July 4. **McDaniel** is acknowledged as the ACW champion ... **The Ringlords** are the current SAPW tag-team champs ... The SWA has a light-heavy-weight tournament slated for Sept. 5 ... **Buddy Porter's** North American Wrestling Association is slated to begin promoting this fall. **Jay Eagle's** NCW group also will run shows this fall.

Editor's Notes

- Because of a miscommunication with my roommates, I was not able return some of the phone calls received at the **Three Count** number. Please excuse the inconvenience and try again if you wish to speak to me. If I am not home, please leave a time when I can get back to you, and wait a few seconds after the beep to begin speaking.

- Finally, an issue printed on time. Issue 48 will be mailed Friday. Slated to run is a lucha libre report from **Carlos Rey**, a television report from **John Patton**, a report from **Andrew Goldberger** on **John Arezzi's** Weekend of Champions in New York, a complete run down of the Clash of Champions and maybe, just maybe, **John Muse's** diary from his trip to Japan and my Sunshine State Report. **Three Count** then begins a regular Friday printing date from that point on. I do know that Issue 49 will be mailed on September 21 because I must travel to Knoxville for the University of Florida-Tennessee football game. If anyone knows of any wrestling shows in the area between Sept. 19-21, please let me know. Issue 51 will also have a similar delay, from October 2 to October 5 or October 6. I am travelling to Starkeville, Miss., to cover the Florida-Mississippi State game, and then am driving to Miami for the University of Miami-Florida State football game. Let no one ever tell you the life of a journalist is an easy one.

Dynamite brothers cheered in AAA

If the August 23 AAA show on Galavision was to be rated on a scale from one to 10, it would definitely receive the highest mark possible.

1) **Super Calo-Winners-Thunderbird** (technicos) defeated **Heavy Metal-Psicosis-El Picudo** (rudos) in two-of-three falls. They seem to be trying to give Thunderbird a big push, but he really doesn't impress me. Also, a feud seems to be brewing between Winners and Metal (**Canelo Casas**). Psicosis looks as good as ever. In the first fall, Psicosis made T-bird submit, Metal

Carlos Rey



pinned Winners and Picudo rendered Calo out of action outside the ring. Toward the end of this fall, the middle rope broke and was not replaced. But believe it or not, the guys performed even better without it (probably because of increased concentration under the circumstance). The technicos evened things when T-bird pinned Psicosis with help from Winners, Calo pinned Picudo with help from T-bird and Metal did not return to the ring. The third fall ended with everyone doing lances (leaps over the top rope outside the ring) and Calo the only wrestler able to answer the count.

2) **Rey Misterio Jr.** (seconded by **Angel Azteca**) defeated **Mr. Condor** (seconded by **Blue Panther**) in a mask vs. mask match. There was a lot of bad blood between these two wrestlers over the past couple weeks, so this match was highly anticipated. Misterio is definitely headed for greatness, while Condor looked very good (even though his style is almost all brawling). Panther interfered throughout the entire match, kicking Misterio in the groin behind the referee's back in the first fall, which allowed Condor to get the pinfall. Misterio won the second fall when he flew from inside the ring and dropkicked Condor on the arena floor (very impressive), leaving Condor unable to answer the referee's 20-second count. Misterio won the third fall with a huracarana.

3) **Jerry Estrada-Jerrito Estrada-Fuerza Guerrera** (rudos) battled to a double disqualification against **El Hijo del Santo-Octagon-Octagoncito** (technicos). This match was very exciting, and marked the renewal of the Guerrera-Octagon feud. Estrada and Santo worked very well, too. Having the mini-wrestlers involved was a great idea, as this adds some good comedy spots to the match. First fall: Octagoncito pinned Jerrito Estrada, Octagon pinned Guerrera and the larger Estrada submitted to Santo. Second fall: Guerrera

pinned Octagon after using a low blow (unbeknownst to the referee), Jerrito made Octagoncito submit and Santo was rendered out of action by Jerry Estrada. People who see this show should notice how carried away the fans get while Estrada is beating up Santo outside the ring. They start kicking Estrada. The fans take their wrestling very seriously in Mexico. Third fall: Guerrera ripped off Octagoncito's mask and Octagon ripped off Guerrera's hood, causing the DDQ.

4) **Konnan-Perro Aguayo-Mascara Sagrada** (technicos) defeated **El Sicodelico-El Cobarde-Cien Caras** (rudos) via disqualification in two-of-three falls. Before reading this, remember what I have been writing about Caras hating Sicodelico because he is a traitor and there is a code of honor among rudos. There were no great moves in the first fall, just all out brawling. Konnan pinned Cobarde, Sagrada pinned Sicodelico and Aguayo left Caras unable to answer the count. The second fall began with the rudos ripping Sagrada's mask, forcing the tecnico to return to the locker room to replace it. This doomed the technicos, as Cobarde pinned Konnan and Caras pinned Aguayo. Everything went crazy in the third fall. Sagrada returned from the dressing room to help his team, but **El Indomito** shows up and handcuffs Konnan to the ring ropes. So, as you can imagine, the technicos take another tremendous beating. Referee **Pepe Casas** disqualified the rudos for this action. Sicodelico raised his hand in victory, and went to raise Caras' hand, but was shoved away. In turn, Sicodelico slugs Caras, who then begins destroying Sicodelico. Cobarde then jumps Caras. **Mascara Año 2000** (Caras' brother) then tries to make the save for Caras, but gets jumped by Indomito. After Caras and 2000 left the ring, the three remaining heels turned their anger on poor Konnan.

I would like to give a little history about Caras and 2000 to offer a better understanding of the angle and why the crowd jeers them so much. In 1983, Caras and 2000 were one of Mexico's most popular teams. Then one day, without any warning, Caras appeared on a rudo team, tagging with **Sangre Chicana**. As you can imagine, this did not sit well with the technicos, the fans or 2000. So, 2000 started to get matches against Caras, but when the time came, the brothers refused to wrestle each other. Eventually, Caras got his brother to turn rudo during a match in which Caras was getting clobbered. Caras' other brother, **Universo 2000**, first entered wrestling using the name **Signo 2000**, but as far as I know, he has always been a rudo. To surmise, these men were loved by the fans but turned on them, thus the negative reaction from the crowd. But, unbelievably, during this angle they were cheered. Let's see if that continues next week.

Warrior Tops Savage via Countout

(Continued from Page 1)

Sherri's outfit was quite revealing, prompting the following dialogue between WWF owner/announcer **Vince McMahon** and **Bobby Heenan**:

McMahon: There are more moons here in London, England than on any other planet.

Heenan: I've never seen more smiles in all my life.

Earlier when Sherri bent over to take off Michaels belt, McMahon said, "What's she doing? This may be the highlight of the night." Family entertainment for sure. Martel entered the ring in a tennis outfit with a badminton racquet. There were excellent theatrics throughout the match. One sequence included Michaels being thrown over the top rope and taking a bump on the floor. Sherri went over to make sure Michaels was OK, and Martel walked over to her and gave her a hug (she enjoyed it). The funniest sequence of the whole card occurred when Michaels and Martel exchanged slaps to the face and Sherri faints. Michaels contemplates giving her artificial respiration. The Model comes over, throws him aside and starts performing CPR onto Sherri. They begin brawling to the dressing room. Sherri peaks up, sees them brawling and faints again as they both get counted out. Michaels carries Sherri over his shoulder down the aisle. Martel nails Michaels, causing Michaels and Sherri to fall down. Martel begins carrying Sherri back, but Michaels hits him and Sherri spills again. Michaels picks up Sherri to carry her back. **Rene Goulet** and **J.J. Dillon** then come out and force Martel back to the dressing room. Shortly thereafter, he comes out with a bucket of water and throws it on Sherri. Michaels chases after Martel, while Sherri returns to the locker room embarrassed. **Grade: ****** for the match; ********* for the theatrics.

The Nasty Boys gave an interviews talking about how they should have a WWF title shot and not **The Beverly Brothers**. **Jimmy Hart** assures them they will get a title shot and they all hug, but expect a Nasties turn sometime this fall.

4) **The Natural Disasters** d. **The Beverlies** when **Earthquake** pinned **Mike Enos** with his Earthquake. At the beginning of the match, Heenan announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, Shawn Michaels has left Wembley Stadium." The match wasn't very good, but one exchange between McMahon and Heenan was very funny. McMahon: "All Typhoon has to do is sit up and tag his partner." Heenan: "You're asking a lot for him to do a sit-up." Typhoon played punching bag for most of the match. **Grade: 1/2***.

The Bushwhackers did an interview with one cute comment. Announcer **Gene Okerlund** talked about

how they had been invited to the Queen's castle for dinner, and they would be allowed to sit on the royal throne. **Bushwhacker Butch** then said that he had better bring something good to read. Also, **Lord Alfred Hayes**, who had been slinking around outside Savage's dressing room earlier, tried peaking in The Warrior's locker room to see if **Mr. Perfect** was inside. When he opened the door, it was slammed shut.

5) **Crush** d. **Repo Man** with The Cranium Crush Finish, perhaps the worst finishing hold in the history of our beloved sport. The move simply has Crush (**Bryan Adams**) place his hands on someone's head and pretend to squeeze. Again, the highlight of this match was Heenan's commentary. When Repo took a bump outside the ring, Heenan said, "He's got that Achey-Breaky back it looks like." **Grade: *** for the match, ****** for the finish.

The Warrior-Savage angle was then recapped, leading into:

6) **Warrior** d. **Savage** via countout in the finest match of The Warrior's career. Perfect accompanied neither man to ringside. The match was loaded with near falls. Two-thirds of the way into the bout, Flair and Perfect made their way to ringside. Perfect tripped Savage and then turned away. A referee bump occurred shortly thereafter, and Warrior had Savage pinned for approximately seven seconds. But by the time referee **Hebner** came to, Warrior could only get a 2 1/2 count. The Warrior then argues with Hebner, who is bumped again. Savage piledrove Warrior and went to get the referee. Perfect and Flair climbed in the ring, and Flair hit Warrior with an object. The heels then left the ring, Savage slams the Warrior and executes an elbow drop off the top rope. Savage is on top of Warrior for about 10 seconds, but Hebner only recovers for a 2 1/2 count. Warrior does his Superman comeback, consisting of three clotheslines, a shoulder block and a press slam. He then went for his splash, but Flair hit him with a chair from outside the ring as Warrior bounced off the ropes. The Warrior went down, but Savage refused to pin him because he felt an injustice had taken place. Savage then climbed to the top rope, stood there for about a minute (adding to the suspense of whether he would elbow drop Warrior or jump on Flair). Savage chose the latter, but was hit with a chair by Flair on his way down. He was then unable to answer the count. Perfect then worked over Savage's knee, and Flair put him in a figure-four leg lock. They continued the carnage until Warrior saved Savage and chased the heels to the dressing room. Savage had rolled into the ring by this time, and Warrior went to check

(Continued on Page 9)

Simmons, Flair, SMW Angles Great

This issue, we update our television reports to mid-August for most circuits. To try and catch-up, we will have another television report for Issue 47, and hope to be up-to-date by Issue 48. Anyone wishing to contribute a television report from an area not covered under this report can call or write **Alex Marvez** (see Page 2 for calling details).

World Championship Wrestling

Highlights (Weekend of August 16)

- The entire match where **Ron Simmons** de-

John Patton

feated **Big Van Vader** for the WCW heavyweight title. To borrow an overused cliché by **Jim "Hidden Agenda" Ross**, this was "high-impact wrestling" at its best. Both men worked extremely hard, and probably came out of the match banged up. Simmons delivered numerous brutal bodyslams and suplexes onto Vader, and Vader did a second-rope splash that had to hurt. Simmons got the pin with a well-executed power slam (WCW Main Event).

- **Barry Windham** defeated **Tracy Smothers** in a good bout that aired twice over the weekend. The last few minutes were very quickly paced, with many hot moves. Windham won with a lariat (WCW World Wide Wrestling, WCW ME).

- **Cactus Jack** defeated **Ricky Steamboat** via countout in a fast-paced match with great crowd heat (World Wide).

Lowlights (8/15)

- WCW actually allowed **Jobbird Jimmy Garvin** to enter the same ring as **Jushin Lyger**. Lyger performed well despite the **Bill Watts**-imposed handicaps (i.e. Garvin and the top-rope rule). Lyger, who won with a moonsault, deserves much better than this. (WCW ME).

Somewhere in between (8/15)

- A very good semi-squash match between **Brian Pillman** and **George South**. South performed well, and actually got some offensive moves in. Simply put, Pillman was great. I am a big admirer of his in-ring work. South did a nice job of letting Pillman execute a lot of his neat moves. For the work done in the ring, this match deserves to be in the "Highlights" section. However, it belongs here because of Watts' top-rope rule. Pillman is such an incredible talent, and I hate seeing that talent put on a leash. Since this rule was put into place, Pillman has looked very uncomfortable at times. It's not that he can't

wrestle, but he appears tentative because he isn't allowed to do what he does best. That's a shame. (WCW ME).

What was said (8/15)

- The following exchange between **Tony Schiavone** and **Magnum T.A.** on WCW ME promoting **Missy Hyatt's** 900-number:

Schiavone: "We understand that Missy will talk about the private lives of some of our wrestlers."

T.A.: "She should know."

- "The party's over, but the party's still going on ..." -- Simmons (WCW Saturday Night). Huh???

World Wrestling Federation

Highlights (Weekend of 8/15)

- A good match featuring **The Nasty Boys-Repo Man** against **High Energy (Owen Hart-Koko B. Ware)-El Matador**. Hart played punching bag in this match wonderfully. He took a nasty (no pun intended) bump on the floor that was the highlight of the bout. The babyfaces won via disqualification after Repo Man was caught using his tow tope by the referee (Prime Time Wrestling).

- A good interview with **Randy Savage** where **Mr. Perfect** interrupted and said **The Ultimate Warrior** had made him an offer, meaning the ante on his services for Summer Slam was now sky high. This entire angle has been so well put together. There are numerous ways they could have gone with this scenario, but the WWF's final decision not to turn either Savage or Warrior and give the title back to **Ric Flair** was not a bad conclusion (although using **Razor Ramone** as Savage's next opponent is pretty miserable).

Lowlights (8/15)

- The "Cranium Crush" is one of the worst finishing maneuvers ever (even worse than **Sergeant Slaughter's** atomic noogie). A description is given in this issue's Summer Slam report. **Crush** used the move to squash **Joe Flame** (PTW).

What was said (8/15)

- "You too can look like this if you watch Body Stars." -- **Bobby Heenan** while pointing at **Jamison** (PTW).

- "Baaaaaalaalaaaoooooh!" -- **Kamala** talking about his match with **The Undertaker** at Summer Slam (PTW).

- "I'll never forget the liberties **Stu Hart** took with me in that dungeon in Calgary." -- **Lord Alfred Hayes** (PTW).

- "Squash city." -- **Gorilla Monsoon** after **The Samoans** debuted by crushing **Tony Ulysses-Phil Apollo** (PTW).

(Continued on Page 3)

Potshots

Editor's note again: Because of a publishing snafu, part two of Bill Kunkel's article will appear in this issue.

Even the sheets are not immune from criticism. I wish, for example, that Dave Meltzer had covered the cream team scandal with the same gusto he's shown for the steroid issue. Steroids are drugs, and the country is temporarily demented on the subject of non-approved drugs. Given that, I think even the most virulent opponent of individual rights would have to agree that the ring boy issue totally eclipses -- or certainly should -- the question of whether or not Jim Hellwig enhanced his physique chemically or who made pee-pee in whose bottle. Or is the charge that Titan ring crew chiefs were predatory homosexuals who hired kids from dysfunctional families, took them across state lines, and subjected them to sexual harassment and abuse, somehow less important than steroid testing? If so, this country's values are more bleeped up than even I thought.

I've also got to gig *Three Count's* editor for failing to print a letter sent by WWF attorney Jerry McDevitt to the *New York Times* along with Alex's rebuttal -- neither of which were ever run in the *Times*, supposed bastion of journalistic integrity, seemingly wimped out on the issue. They only wrote meekly to Titan to tell them that mean old Alex was back in Florida where he belonged. The McDevitt letter, which Alex read to me over the phone -- as it concerned charges spring from Alex's appearance on *Wrestle Talk*, a local radio show I co-hosted for almost a year -- was incredible. McDevitt's screed was directed at the *Times* because Alex was an intern there while simultaneously saying things on our radio show that Titan didn't like. The letter is a masterpiece of intimidation through bluff and misquote, and Alex's response perfectly exposes McDevitt for the bully and blowhard he is.

Why didn't Alex print this stuff in *Three Count*? "I do not want this to become a personal issue," ye editor writes. This is no personal issue (except where Titan has made it one) and that's a lame excuse, Alex. Print the damned letter. Titan has shown its true face for once and you have a metaphorical snapshot of that horrible

sight. It deserves to be published -- maybe in *Fangoria*, true, but it still deserves to be seen. That, and a whole lot more.

Just spoke to Lee Cole, who said he'd finally contacted Jeff Savage regarding the retraction of the erroneous statement in Jeff's *Penthouse* piece (see above). According to Lee, Savage acknowledged that *Penthouse* wanted him (Savage) to give the retraction and that he was willing to do so ... however ... he warned that such a retraction would give aid and comfort to the Titan camp and surely, Lee wouldn't want that to happen, would he?

Here was Jeff's astonishing alternative offer: Lee would fly (at Jeff's expense) to San Diego and spend five days at Jeff's crib, spilling his guts for a book Savage is writing on Vince and Hogan (sounds like a great buddy movie -- another *Butch and Sundance* maybe). In other words, Jeff is saying: I lied about you, Lee, and made you look like a lowlife, sellout sh-t, but if you let me get away without apologizing over this, I will make it up to you in spades. You can come to my place and provide me with tons of free (?) material for a book I'm hoping will make me a million bucks! And the BOOK will serve as the retraction! IF it gets published ... WHEN it gets published. Meanwhile, the lies in *Penthouse* stand, while the author of those lies tries to squirm out of having to be a mensch about it and admit he screwed up.

When journalists covering this multifaceted story show the same level of ethics as the people they are attacking, it makes you a little sick, doesn't it?

Well, I've got a deal for YOU, Jeff. How about you correct ALL the errors in your story just because -- and I know this sounds wild, macho journalist -- it's the ethical thing to do!

I told you it would be wild.

Was Lee lying to me about your retraction offer? I dunno, but if so, it would be the first time he's told me something that I wasn't subsequently able to either prove or establish to my satisfaction was true. One of these days, I'll be writing a piece on Lee Cole's involvement with this, and unless you do something, Jeff, you're not going to come out of it looking very good.

Muckraking Miserable by Media

(Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part column by **Bill Kunkel**, a bi-weekly columnist for **Three Count** and former co-host of the Las Vegas-based *Wrestle Talk* radio show. The second half and Bill's Potshots cartoon will run in Issue 47).

Has ever a more pathetic job of muckraking been performed by the mass media than the recent bungling attempts at reporting the World Wrestling Federation scandals? Partly through happenstance but mostly through incompetence, after almost six months in

Bill Kunkel

the media glare, the WWF reportedly feels secure enough -- or is desperate enough -- to bring back **Pat Patterson**.

Wrestling had never before been subjected to any serious scrutiny by the American press. It was, to coin a phrase, beneath suspicion. Now, we've had coverage by major newspapers and magazines throughout the country, from a front-page article in the *Los Angeles Times* to **Jeff Savage's** macho condemnation of the WWF in a recent *Penthouse*. Yet only **Phil Mushnick's** repeated volleys in the *New York Post* seem to have had any actual impact on Titan Sports.

As for Savage's attack on the WWF in *Penthouse* ... Although it was remotely hard-hitting, and therefore refreshing, magazine account of the Titan scandals, it is, itself, extremely vulnerable to credibility checks. A couple of minor errors could be understood in a piece of this magnitude, but Savage also committed a major gaff by mistakenly attributing a **Tom Cole** quote to Tom's older brother, Lee. According to everyone I have spoken to -- including several folks who were there when it happened -- it was Tom Cole, not Lee, who stood up after the show and declared his undying love and loyalty to the WWF and announced he had signed a contract to go back to work on the cream team, err, ring crew.

He's no saint, but Lee Cole has been an invaluable source of information to the journalists covering this story, Mushnick and Savage included. To shatter his credibility by putting his brother's words in his mouth, Savage casts doubt on the validity of everything Lee has done since his brother returned to Titan, most of it extremely important work. Who do you think, for example, brought me "**Barney**" for the *Wrestle Talk* radio show? "**Barney**" is the fictitious name of the boy scout who has accused **Mighty Mel Phillips** of sexually assaulting him at a WWF card in Long Island. Guess who helped "**Barney**" find a lawyer? Lee Cole. Lee found out about "**Barney**" through **John Arezzi**, who had known

about him since May but who had declined to bring him forward, directing him to law enforcing agencies but mysteriously keeping him under journalistic wraps. It was only after Lee contacted me and I arranged to have "**Barney**" appear on *Wrestle Talk* that the story broke nationally -- from *The Wrestling Observer Newsletter* to the *New York Post* to, at long last, *Pro Wrestling Spotlight*. I don't want to knock John, who is a wonderful guy, a legend in the hard-core community, a personal friend for almost two decades and a responsible reporter. But John has been attacked relentlessly by Titan's bullying bullbleep, been backstabbed by **Vince McRusso**, a man he thought was a partner and friend, and has become somewhat, and understandably, gushy from all this.

Earlier this week, John called to tell me about Pat-Pat returning to Titan, as well as the great news about the encouraging prospects for his second convention. He also mentioned KVED in Las Vegas has been a nightmare to work with in producing the *Wrestling Insiders* radio show, but that he had a dynamite show scheduled for the following week, hitting hard on the Patterson comeback. I was proud of him. Then, August 29, there was no show. I called the station, and they said it was cancelled. Some guys can't inherit a break.

Back to Savage, there's the matter of **Jimmy Snuka**. The story of the death of Nancy Argentino has been whispered about inside wrestling circles since it happened in 1983. But what, exactly, does Savage tell us? That the death was suspicious and that The Superfly isn't exactly a brain surgeon, bruddah? But where does this fit -- much less qualify as the lead item -- in a story about alleged transgressions by Vince McMahon and Titan Sports? The only mention of McMahon in the entire story is of how he flew up to accompany Snuka. Does this somehow make him a monster? So he stood by a valuable employee -- an employee not especially bright or adept with the English language, at that -- when Snuka was looking at a Potential murder charge. So what? Lord knows I'm no fan of Vince McMahon's, but this kind of guilt by association makes you question not only Savage's credibility but his motives for writing the piece.

If **Larry King's** nose had been any further up Vince McMahon's butt, he would have been smothered. **Phil Donahue** got so entangled in the morass of issues he forgot that the show was supposed to be about the sexual victimization of ring boys. With the *A Current Affair* piece and much of the second-round coverage, Vince copped a real break. Los Angeles went ballistic and reduced a 30-minute show to about 10 minutes worth of stuff that had already been cataloged so often it might have come from Sears.

Bulldog Captures IC Title from Hart

(Continued from Page 5)

on him. The Warrior then got the title, handed it to Savage and helped him to the dressing room. **Grade:** ****1/4. Savage's injury will reportedly be used at the WWF television taping in Hershey Sept. 1 if/when he drops the title to Flair. Flair and Perfect gave an interview, with Flair saying, "Savage, that belt is coming back to me."

7) **The Undertaker** d. **Kamala** via disqualification when **Kim Chee** interfered. The match itself was a dud, with the highlights being The 'Taker arriving to the ring in a hearse and the expression on Kamala's face when 'Taker rose from a splash off the middle and top ropes. The 'Taker then chased Kamala to the dressing room. **Grade:** DUD; *** for entrance and post-match activities.

Both **The British Bulldog** and **Bret Hart** were interviewed, with Hart's interview outstanding. **Roddy Piper** then played the bagpipes. While Piper was playing, Heenan said, "I've always hated hard rock" and "What a windbag this guy is." Piper's appearance was a last-minute favor granted by McMahon. Piper reportedly needed some sort of appearance to garner a card from the Actor's Guild. His appearance reportedly baffled members of the WWF's front office, because Piper had walked out on McMahon several times before.

8) The Bulldog (**Davey Boy Smith**) d. Hart by reversing a sunset flip into some type of cradle pin. This match was preceded by an interview with **Diana-Hart Smith**, which was believable but dragged on. She babbled about how this feud was tearing up their family. The cameras focused on her regularly throughout the entire match (perhaps too much). Bulldog was accompanied to the ring by heavyweight boxer **Lenox Lewis**. I wondered why **Razor Ruddock**, Lewis' opponent next month and also a Canadian, did not accompany Hart to the ring. Hart was excellent during this match. Davey Boy executed some great high spots, but interspersed them with rest holds. The action was give-and-take, and Hart portrayed a semi-heel role. McMahon talked about the Lewis-Ruddock fight, and Heenan said, "**Razor Ramone** is fighting?" Hart put a four-minute sleeper hold on Smith, and Smith recovered to power slam Hart shortly thereafter. Hart kicked out, and then did a belly-to-back suplex with a bridge that looked fantastic. The 'Dog did a top-rope superplex for a near fall before Hart put Bulldog in a sharp shooter, which was broken when 'Dog reached the ropes. Then the pin occurred. After the match, The Bulldog tried to shake Hart's hand, but he initially refused. He then did, and Diana Hart-Smith entered the ring and they had individual hugs and then a group hug. Sounds like good therapy. Fireworks went off

and the show ended. The match had more high spots than any on the card, but numerous rest holds lowered the grade. **Grade:** ***3/4.

Notes: Overall, the show was excellent, grading an 8 on a 10-point scale. On the whole, this was the best WWF pay-per-view show I can remember seeing. This can be attributed to the three highest-graded matches on the show and Heenan ... **The Wrestling Observer Newsletter** reported Patterson is returning as the WWF match-maker. Patterson resigned last February amid allegations he sexually harassed WWF wrestlers. Patterson was introduced to the crowd in London as the WWF honored some of the "all-time great wrestlers." If Patterson does return, it marks the end of the booking of J.J. Dillon, whose tenure will likely be considered a mixed bag of success. There were two major angles during the Dillon era, the success of which depending on your taste -- the Warrior-Papa Shongo voodoo feud and the Warrior-Savage feud. I don't know how much McMahon was involved in inventing either, but I do think the WWF was headed back in the right direction leading into Slam. Re-hiring Patterson shows a tremendous amount of chutzpah by McMahon, especially because he is once again leaving himself open for a media feeding frenzy ... **Angelo Poffo**, father of Savage and Lanny "**The Genius**" Poffo, also was introduced to the London crowd. No word on whether this segment will air or did air on television (we missed the first three minutes of the telecast for some reason) ... Flair will reportedly receive the WWF title because McMahon was scared he was jumping to WCW ... This is the WWF's first pay-per-view show without **Hulk Hogan**, and quite honestly, he really was not missed. It would have been interesting to compare the crowd's reaction to The Bulldog to what Hogan would have received ... The WWF was smart in ending the card with the Bulldog-Hart match. Any fans with a sore taste in their mouths from the Savage-Warrior match would leave satisfied with the main event ... *The Observer* also reports about 2,000 seats were accidentally not sold right in front of the WWF cameras, but the camera work made the stadium appear jam packed. It was really an amazing site watching the size of the crowd. Give the WWF credit for making the show look so good, especially considering there had been rainy weather leading up to the card ... There were three dark matches on the show. **Tatanka** defeated **Berserker** (a match which was advertised for the pay-per-view show on television), **The Mountie-Nasty Boys** lost to **The Bushwhackers-Jim Duggan** (a match that wasn't slated for telecast) and Shongo squashing **El Matador**.

Patton, In General

(Continued from Page 6)

Finally, a change

- Isn't it nice to see **Rick Martel** in an angle where he doesn't spray "Arrogance" in someone's eyes?

I'd rather run my fingers down a chalkboard than:

- Listen to **Harvey Whippleman** give an interview.

.....

U.S.W.A.

(Highlights from weekend of August 8)

(Tapes provided by **Brian Pruett**)

- A good match featuring **Eddie and Doug Gilbert** against **Jerry Lawler-Jeff Jarrett**, with the babyfaces controlling most of it. The ending came when **Lauren Davenport** interfered on behalf of The Gilberts. **Miss Texas** entered the fray to even things up. **Moondog Fifi** then jumped in and clotheslined Miss Texas, who took a great bump.

- A good tag-team match between **The Hornet-Billy Joe Travis** against **Brian Christopher-Mike Samples**. The end came when Davenport sprayed hair spray into Travis' eyes and Christopher used an inside cradle for the pin.

Lowlights (8/8)

- Why can't all of the USWA characters be USWA characters? The Hornet is a blatant rip-off of **Sting**, and Samples dresses and has mannerisms almost exactly like **Irwin R. Shyster**. The organization puts out a good wrestling product as it is. There is no need to copy ideas from other federations.

Somewhere in between (8/8)

- **Reno Riggins** debuted and had some pretty impressive moves. However, his finishing maneuver does a great deal to expose the business. He does a Flair-type flip into the turnbuckle, lands on his feet, runs to the other ring post and uses a cross-body block to pin his opponent. It takes entirely too long to develop and just doesn't look believable.

What was said (8/15)

- "I would like to make my official announcement. I am now running for the presidency of the United States." -- Eddie Gilbert.

- "If you wanna come see Miss Texas, if you want to see her with no clothes on, you don't have to pick up *Playboy* or *Penthouse*. Just come on down, and I'll be taking all her clothes off." -- Davenport, promoting her upcoming street fight with Miss Texas.

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